



Pets as Therapy on ICCU

(Harder than setting up a zoo in your front room,
probably)

Holistic care model on ICCU

- Environmental survey 2013
- Sleep optimisation 2014
- Music in Hospitals and Care 2017
- Aromatherapy massage 2018
- Soundear 3 noise monitors 2019

- Pets???

Pets as Therapy

- Animal interaction is known to improve mood in hospital patients
- ‘Pets as Therapy’ charity since 1983
- Ad hoc visits by patient’s own pets on Ward 37 for more than 10 years
- Dogs are officially less dangerous microbiologically than humans (most dog bacteria are not zoonotic)

Pets as Therapy

- OBSTACLES:
- Too many stakeholders (infection control, voluntary services, occupational therapy, etc)
- Guidelines exist but not ICU specific
- Too much demand for limited number of dogs
- Too easy to give up...

Pets as Therapy

- OVERCOMING OBSTACLES:
- Enthusiasm (thanks Karuna)
- Enroll those at the top for support:
 - *‘Aside from the fact she’s a cutie, it’s lovely to see the smiles on the faces of everyone she met. From the photos she’s clearly a big hit – not only with the patients but with our staff too. It’s definitely something I would encourage we do more of and I know Katie and her dog Poppy often walk around the hospital cheering up those they meet along the way.’* **Dame Jackie Daniels Chief Exec NUTH**
 - *‘Thanks for sharing. I’m delighted to hear that the team have been able to make this happen and that it’s had such a positive impact on the staff (and no doubt patients).’* **Martin Wilson Chief Op Officer NUTH**
 - *‘Great news indeed. I am sorry it has taken so long but got there in the end!’* **Dr Pareja-Cebrian DIPC NUTH**

Where Now?

